the States has been called on the 10th and 11th January, 2005 for consultations in this regard.

Report of NHRC

1073. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recent report of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) highlighting the fact that practice of "Devdasi" system wherein socially and economically backward families are made to offer their young daughters to the temples, continue to be practiced even in non-BIMARU States like Karnataka;

(b) Government's reaction thereto especially in the light of the observation suggesting that not a single case has been booked under the Karnataka Devdasis Prohibition Act; against the priests despite many complaints and evidence of close nexus between the priests and girls traffickers; and

(c) The steps contemplated on the basis of the observations made by NHRC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Government has recently received the report.

(b) So far 45 cases have been booked under the Karnataka Devdasi Prohibition Act. All the cases are against girl traffickers.

(c) A copy of the report is being sent to the states for further necessary action.

Conversion of Andhra University into Central University

1074. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in his Ministry for upgrading Andhra University to the level of Central University;

(b) if so, when such a request was received; and

(c) the action contemplated thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request was received from the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in December, 2003.

(c) In consonance with the provisions of the National Policy of Education, 1986, Central Government is not in favour of converting existing State Universities into Central Universities and therefore, the request could not be acceded to.

Expansion of Integrated Child Development Scheme

1075. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of its commitment towards greater investment for more disadvantaged population groups and regions, Government plan a huge expansion of Integrated Child Development Scheme;

(b) if so, what are concrete proposals prepared so far;

(c) the States where these schemes are to be implemented;

(d) whether proposed scheme includes services on suplementary nutrition, early childhood education, immunization, health check up etc.; and

(e) by when these are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (e) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant & lactating mothers from disadvantaged sections by providing a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition & health education.

In pursuance of the Government's commitment to universalize the ICDS Scheme and Supreme Court's directive to the Union of India to indicate